

DAT Conference Call Summary 4/29/2010

Participants: RShahcheraghi(DWR), CMesser(DWR), GAasen(DFG), SKong(CCWD), NHindman(FWS), CStroble(DWR), JSpeegle(FWS), JAdib-Samii(DFG), OLu(MWD), LBartoo(FWS), TBoardman(SLDMWA)

Salvage

Last week the loss of winter run length non-clipped Chinook was 8; the season total loss is 1,657. The incidental take level is 23,592.

The season salvage of non-clipped steelhead is 831 and clipped steelhead is 3,559. The incidental take level for non-clipped steelhead is 3,000. There is no take limit for clipped or hatchery steelhead.

Delta smelt were not salvaged at the SWP and CVP last week. The season total expanded salvage of delta smelt is 92 (76 CVP, 16 SWP). Smelt larval sampling started at the SWP on the 19th, and at the CVP on the 24th. No delta smelt larvae have been observed so far.

Last week one juvenile longfin smelt was salvaged at the CVP for an expanded salvage of 3. The season total is 3. No larval longfin smelt have been salvage this season at either facility.

The season salvage of green sturgeon is 0, and white sturgeon 8.

The week's salvage of splittail was 20; the season total is 1,149.

NOTE: HATCHERY CHINOOK TAKE AT THE EXPORT FACILITIES CAN NOT BE DETERMINED FROM EITHER THE DFG REPORT OR FTP SITE, OR THE USBR WEBSITE. DFG AND USBR ONLY REPORT THE NUMBER OF CLIPPED CHINOOK IN A LENGTH CATEGORY WHICH IS MEANINGLESS IN TERMS OF PERMITTED TAKE LEVELS.

Salmonids

Chinook monitoring data can be viewed at
http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfed_monitoring.cfm

FWS Monitoring Notes

Mossdale trawl was turned over to DFG Region 4 on 3/28. The first 2 steelhead of the season were caught, 1 on 4/22 and 1 on 4/25. The catch of non-clipped Chinook salmon increased this week from 20 to 51.

Large scale release of fall-run Chinook salmon at Battle Creek occurred during the weeks of 4/5 and 4/12. Approximately 3 million fish were released during the week of 4/5. Six million fish were scheduled to be released the week of 4/12 and 4-5 million fish are to be released at a future date. A pulse of fish were observed at Knight's Landing on 4/15 and 4/16. Most of these were in the fall-run size category. Low numbers of salmonids are being detected at the salvage facilities. Spring-run Chinook are being collected by FWS beach seine surveys (7), Sacramento River (43) and Chipps Island (431) surveys.

DOSS Update

DOSS did meet this week and are scheduled to meet the week of 5/3.

DOSS summaries can be viewed at
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

Smelt

20mm Survey 3 completed on 4/15. A full survey was completed (47 stations). 20mm Survey 4 will have completed a full survey (47 stations) today, sampling from 4/26 to 4/29. Sample processing is ongoing; no data are available for release at this time. Available data (for surveys 1-3) can be viewed at
(<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>)

(Note: fish >60mm are not displayed on the web-page).

SKT survey 5 is schedule for the week of May 3rd; this will be the last SKT survey for 2010. Delta smelt data from surveys 1 - 4 are available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

Smelt Larval survey data (1-6) are available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

The Smelt Work Group did not meet this week. During weeks when the group does not meet salvage, survey and Delta conditions/operations information is still made available.

The next SWG meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10th.

SWG notes are available at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/OCAP_BO_actions.htm

Operations

Per the NMFS BO, combined exports will remain at 1,500cfs (700cfs SWP, 800cfs CVP). This level of exports will remain in effect until the end of May.

During the VAMP period there will be an outage at the SWP for up to 10 days for construction on the South Aqueduct transmission lines creating a need to utilize CVP pumps to maintain exports level around 1,500cfs. Due to the CVP pump configuration, 1,600 cfs is as close to the VAMP target as CVP pumps can get and a proposal has been made to offset the additional pumping by limiting exports on either side of the outage to 1,400 cfs. The DOSS group is working up the biological rationale to support this change in operations and NMFS expects to have a determination ready for WOMT on 5/11.

VAMP began on 4/25/10 and goes to 5/25/10.

The 14-day average OMR is around 1,111cfs. The 5-day average OMR is around 675cfs.

For the month of April, the projects must operate to comply with D-1641 water quality standards at Collinsville (entire month) and Chipps Island (27 days). Currently, we are meeting these water quality requirements.

A question was asked about Roe Island X2 and the May trigger and where we stand right now with estimates for May. Per projections from the 8-river index, the estimate for Chipps Island is 27 days and 4-6 days for Roe Island (with days possibly carried over from April to May). These are still estimates at this time.

Feather River Basin QPF and other reports can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/hafoo/hb/csm/forecasts.cfm>

Operations data can be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>

Note: NEXT DAT CONFERENCE CALL, THURSDAY, 5/13/2010, 11 am, 916/657-4108. In lieu of a call, any new and pertinent information will be emailed to the DAT during the week of 5/3.